Dazzling Minds
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my little world
~Saki~

Although I get good grades and am popular with boys,
to me, that doesn't mean anything at all.
THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL
ICHIMURA SAKI

You are very pretty!
Want to be a model?
WANT TO JOIN OUR COMPANY?
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
Whoa! You're really cute!
Want to hang out with us?
I HAVE PLANS, SO EXCUSE ME.
BESIDES,
NO ONE NOTICES ME.
FROM THE INSIDE

IF I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE JUST GONE TO THE BOOK-STORE...
BUT I'VE ALREADY READ MOST OF THE BOOKS FROM THE STORE BY THE TRAIN STATION..
Sorry, I'm not interested. I have to go.
WATA...
WATA-NABE...
NABE...
FOUND IT!
CASHIER
渡辺
AH...
I'M SORRY!
.....
OH GOSH....
Thump thump
.....
You wouldn't be thinking "this man is so handsome" would you?

That's what you were thinking, right?
Sorry but it's me!
I'VE CAUGHT YOU.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT AT ALL.
YOU CAN HAVE THE BOOK.
WAH!
ICHI-MURA, I'M SORRY. WAIT!
I...
HATE
THIS MAN.

AND FRIVOLOUS.
HE'S ALWAYS JUST AS KIND
NO MATTER WHO HE'S WITH.
WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT
IS REALLY DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW?
YOU MIGHT BE TRICKED BY SOMEONE LIKE ME!
I WOULDN'T FALL FOR IT.
BESIDES, I'M GOING TO TAKE THE BUS HOME
OH, REALLY?
TH...T'S GOOD, THEN.
THEN BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY!
I'M SAYING THIS NOW: I DIDN'T BUY THIS BOOK FOR YOU, OKAY?
I'M JUST LENDING IT TO YOU FOR NOW.
YOU HAVE TO RETURN IT TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
I'm also interested in reading it.

BYE THEN.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
Right from the first day we met,
we didn't really like each other.
No matter how I look at it, I just dislike him.
GOOD MORNING,
SENSEI.
THIS PERSON

HOME-ROOM TEACHER
IS MY
GOOD MORNING
.. SENSEI, IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE WALKING AROUND AND DRINKING COFFEE?
KEKE,
I LOOK COOL, RIGHT?
WHO TOLD ME TO BE BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO...
AS SUCH A HANDSOME GUY? ☆
.....
Ah!
GOOD MORNING SENSEI! ♡
HELLO EVERY-ONE...
You're so cool today, Sensei! ♡
Ahaha!
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING, SENSEI?
WANT SOME?
THAT WAY, YOU'LL HAVE AN INDIRECT KISS WITH ME ♡
I'm just kidding! I was lying~
KYAA!
WHAT AN IDIOT

OUCH!
OKAY...
I'M DONE WITH THE BOOK I'M RETURNING IT TO YOU. THANKS
!!
BAM!!
SA~KI!
♡
.....
What the heck? That was so mean~~
Are you okay sensei?

HOW CAN THEY SAY WORDS LIKE "I LIKE YOU"
WHEN THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW ME?
I really do like you!
It's true! It's true!
SORRY, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
EH?! WHY?!
I've fallen for you at first sight!
Since I saw you I've fallen for you~
Earlier... I overheard your name!
I'm from East High School
.....
!
..WAIT A SECOND!
I just... can't understand it
What should I do?
He's scary...
Someone...
I'M JUST SAYING THAT I REALLY LIKE YOU!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
..PLEASE LET GO OF ME..
What's with this guy?!
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU HERE!

HELLO!
I'M A TEACHER!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH MY STUDENT?
OW! THAT HURTS!!!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
OW OW OW!
I SAW YOU FROM THE STAFF ROOM WINDOW.
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE UNWILLING.
.....
SO SCARY.

I WAS SO SCARED.
PAT! PAT!
Sensei,
with his large, warm hands,
continued to lightly pat my head
I DIDN'T THINK SENSEI WOULD COME AND HELP ME LIKE THAT.
UUU...
BUT...
I'M KIND OF SURPRISED
BLACK COFFEE
OF COURSE I WOULD.

IT IS A TEACHER'S DUTY
TO PRO-TECT HIS STUDENTS.
I'm in shock
I can't believe I'm hearing such mature words from you, Sensei
HM?
Do you want to be punished as well Ichimura?
THIS IS MY HOME
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WALKING ME BACK
IT'S FINE
WELL, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW

THIS WHOLE TIME...
PERHAPS,
I'VE MIS-UNDERSTOOD SENSEI
WHAT'S WRONG?
GO IN-SIDE
OKAY...
From the moment I arrived,
went inside
and closed the door again.
opened the front door,
Sensei never...
took his eyes off me.

In reality, the one who didn't notice anyone for their personalities
was actually me.
SO,
THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THIS STORY-
STARE
EH,
EH?!
WHY IS HE COMING OVER HERE?!

READING MANGA IN MY CLASS IS UNHEARD OF!
YOU CAN COME GET IT FROM ME LATER!
HAHAHA
AH, THAT STARTLED ME!
AHH, THAT'S A NEW RELEASE!
Senseis so mean!
Oh~ This is a new one!
STUDENTS ON DUTY!
PLEASE BRING THE HANDOUTS OVER LATER!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!
DING DONG!
HAHA!
SENSEI'S GOING TO KEEP IT TO READ FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?!
It's Ichimura! She's so cute!
"I WAS SO SCARED..."
I WAS CRYING LIKE A LITTLE CHILD...
Ah. I'm so embarrassed
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY,
I'M STILL FEELING A LITTLE EMBARRASSED
EH?!
ME?!
STUDENT ON DUTY
ICHIMURA
INOUE
<ABSENT

AHAHA!
SENSEI
EXCUSE ME...
opens...
STAFF ROOM
WAIT... ICHIMURA,
THIS IS A MISUNDER-STANDING
And to think that
...YESTERDAY, I KIND OF SAW YOU IN A NEW LIGHT

I'LL JUST LEAVE THE HANDOUTS HERE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO EXPLAIN.
This is my duty as a teacher...
I'm just checking to see if my students are looking at potentially harmful content!!
ICHIMURA!
HERE.
drops
TREAT THIS AS HUSH MONEY.

INSIDE THE HEART PRINTED WRAPPING PAPER
WAS A CAREFULLY WRAPPED HEART-SHAPED CANDY
THIS IS TOO LITTLE FOR HUSH MONEY!
IT'S SWEET
I SUDDENLY FELT SHY.
AFTER EATING IT
HOW STRANGE

As the candy slowly began to melt,

the sweetness slowly seeped into my heart.

Just like something-

IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
Okay?
EH?
ICHIMURA-SAN!!
WAH!
What is it?
HEY.
EH?
BUT... HOW CAN I...
ASK YOU TO DO THAT FOR ME...
SINCE I'M GOING THERE, I'LL BRING THAT OVER FOR YOU.
I'M GOING TO THE STAFF ROOM IN A BIT.
.....
THUMP!
OKAY.
AHHA...
SO DIFFERENT FROM HER USUAL ATTITUDE.
WHAT A FICKLE LITTLE PRINCESS.
WITH SUCH A FAKE SMILE TOO!
ICHIMURA TALKED TO A BOY...

HMP
HIS DESK IS ALWAYS SUCH A MESS
HUH?
HE ISN'T HERE
DOES THIS BOOK BELONG TO A STUDENT?
IT'S BOOK-MARKED
THIS BOOK...
IS SENSEI'S PERSONAL PROPERTY, YOU KNOW?

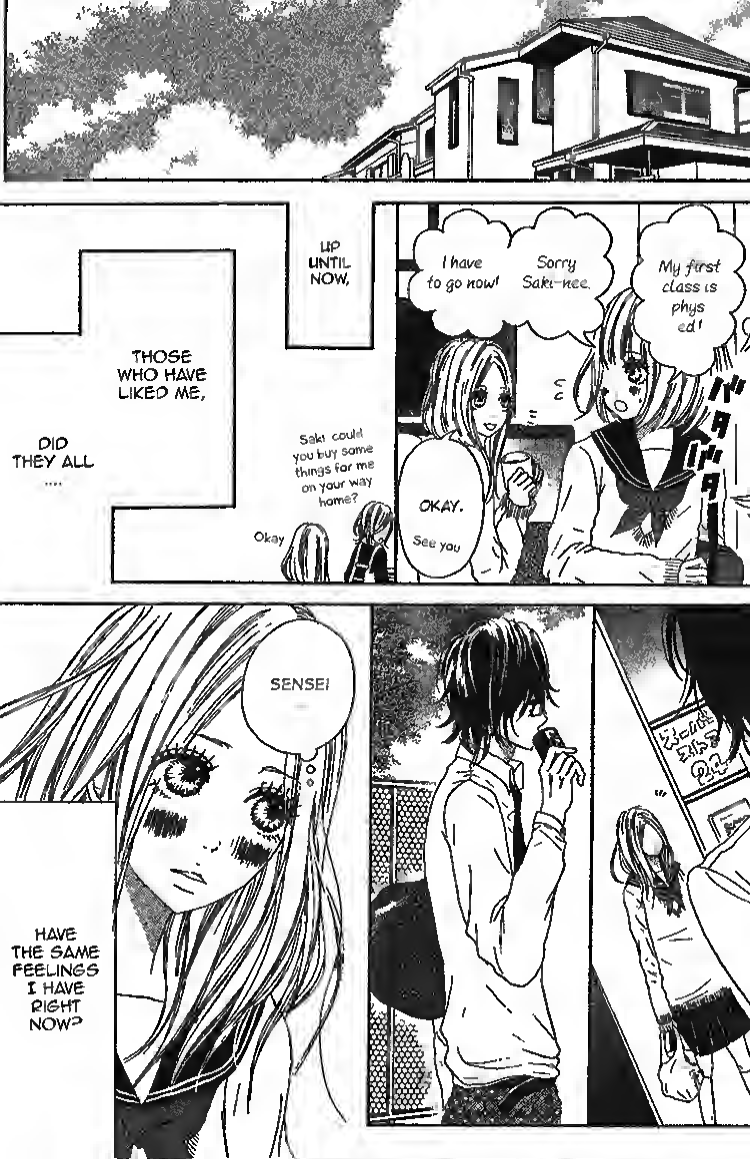
Girl-friend ...?
IT DOESN'T REALLY SUIT YOUR TASTES.
BUT IT'S A ROMANCE NOVEL.
PERSONAL PROPERTY...
IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ IT THOUGH, I CAN LEND IT TO YOU.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT W, S A GIFT...
FROM A PAST GIRLFRIEND I REALLY LOVED.
...EH?

BUT...
SHE SAID ONE DAY OUT OF THE BLUE, THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE
I WAS SO HEARTBROKEN AT THE TIME...
HAKES
BECAUSE IT HURT SO MUCH, I STOPPED READING THIS BOOK AND LEFT IT SITTING ON THE CORNER OF MY DESK...
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO READING IT AGAIN UNTIL NOW.
PRETTY SISSY, HUH?
YOU CAN LAUGH AT ME IF YOU WANT,
KEKE KE!
I'M NOT GOING TO LAUGH AT YOU

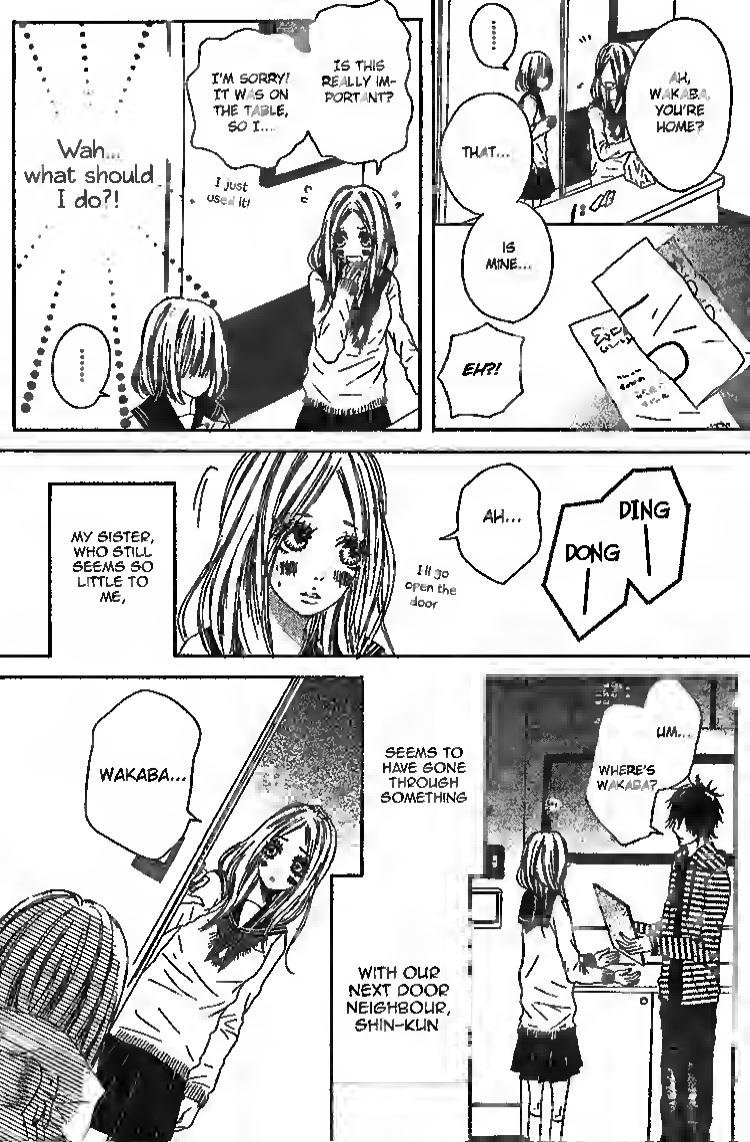
IT WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL LOVE FOR YOU, WASN'T IT?
I CAN'T LAUGH AT SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...ICHIMURA,
YOU'RE SUCH A NICE KID.
I REALLY ...
CAN'T LAUGH AT IT AT ALL.

I finally understand the meaning
behind those feelings.
The sweetness
that slowly seeped into my heart...

HELLO?
?
I DON'T KNOW THIS NUMBER
AH... IT'S ME, NISHIDA.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU SO SUDDENLY.
I got your number from a friend
NISHIDA
That's
TO BE HONEST, I'VE....
ALWAYS LIKED YOU, ICHIMURA -SAN.
...I'M SORRY,
BUT... THANK YOU.
To try and convey your feelings to someone you like
must take a lot of courage.


UP UNTIL NOW,
THOSE WHO HAVE LIKED ME,
DID THEY ALL ....
Saki could you buy some things for me on your way home?
Okay
I have to go now!
Sorry Saki-nee.
My first class is phys ed!
OKAY.
See you
SENSEI
HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS I HAVE RIGHT NOW?

SEN-
Ah! It's Sensei! Are you heading home now?! What a coincidence!
OH, IT'S YOU
BETTER HURRY HOME AND START ON YOUR ASSIGNMENT!
We don't want to! Haha~
.....
SENSEI IS MY TEACHER,
AND I'M JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS..
TO HIM, I'M JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HIS STUDENTS
...I CAN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD..
I CAN'T
TELL HIM THAT I LIKE HIM
I'M HOME.


Wah... what should I do?!
I'M SORRY! IT WAS ON THE TABLE, SO I...
IS THIS REALLY IMPORTANT?
I just used it!
AH, WAKABA, YOU'RE HOME?
THAT...
IS MINE...
EH?!
MY SISTER, WHO STILL SEEMS SO LITTLE TO ME,
I'll go open the door
AH...
DING DONG
WAKABA...
SEEMS TO HAVE GONE THROUGH SOMETHING
WITH OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, SHIN-KUN
UM...
WHERE'S WAKABA?

SAKI-NEE WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND!
SOME-THING LIKE A ONE-SIDED LOVE...
THAT PIECE OF PAPER... IS SOMETHING THAT BROUGHT ME A LOT OF HAPPINESS
I WAS MOVING CLOSE TO SHIN AFTER SWITCHING SEATS, SO I KEPT THAT WITH ME
IN A ONE-SIDED LOVE TOO
I DO KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
BECAUSE I'M
I'm not only saying this for my sister,
but for myself too.
BUT... LET'S WORK HARD TO-GETHER, OKAY?
AND I CAN'T TELL ANYONE,
SINCE I CAN'T CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL
I ALSO HAVE THESE KINDS OF FEELINGS

BUT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND
SUDDENLY TELLING ME THAT KIND OF THING
I WONDER WHY HE OPENED UP TO ME LIKE THAT?
Hey! Did you hear?
Nishida from our class
actually confessed to Ichimura yesterday!
Ahaha!
EH?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
How brave of him to do that
He was rejected, obviously!
ICHIMURA IS ALWAYS MONOPOLIZING ALL THE BOYS
MY BOYFRIEND IS CONSTANTLY SAYING "SHE IS SO CUTE!" TOO...
WOW. REALLY?
Yeah! That Ichimura really pisses me off
AHAHA!
I WISH SHE'D JUST DISAPPEAR.
Kyahaha!
Ah, isn't that going a bit too far?
HEY, YOU GIRLS.

IT'S AFTER SCHOOL HOURS,
YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME.
AH! SENSEI!
BUT IT'S OKAY TO STAY JUST A LITTLE LONGER!
GO HOME.
GEEZ~ HOW MEAN!
Haha!
LET'S GO
...I'M ALREADY USED TO IT.
SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME.
THOSE WORDS...
I DON'T WANT
SENSEI TO HEAR THEM...
BECAUSE ICHIMURA IS PRETTY AND NOTICEABLE,
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN THE SPOTLIGHT.
...SPOTLIGHT? THAT'S NOT...
MY HEART IS COMPLETELY DARK ON THE INSIDE.
DARK, HUH...

THE ARISING SHADOWS WILL BE DARKER AND DEEPER
WHEN YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A DAZZLING LIGHT,
ICHIMURA!
!
AS LONG AS THEY CAN CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT,
YOU CAN LET YOUR OWN LIGHT SHINE THROUGH.
His fingers...
and my cheeks
are so warm

SENSEI...
ARE YOU LISTENING..
ICHIMURA ...?
I...
I'm just-just kidding! Ahahaha!
Hehe. I'm getting all shy!
I actually said some pretty cool things huh?
As expected of a language teacher right?!
Ah!
...
You dropped your books!
BUT...
HOW DO I SAY THIS
I...

CRYBABY ICHIMURA.
SENSEI
WHAT...!
...EH?
REALLY UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, ...
SENSEI
SENSEI
Am I allowed
to tell you
that I like you?

PLEASE LEND ME
THAT BOOK
BUT
BEFORE THAT...
GOOD MORNING!
HEY!
"If you want to read it I can lend it to you"
"This was a gift from an ex-girlfriend I really loved."
I WANT TO KNOW BEFORE SENSEI
WHAT THE ENDING OF THAT BOOK IS
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ROMANCE, ICHIMURA?
. . COULD IT BE THAT YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND?
Ah Look!
Hum?
THAT'S SEXUAL HARRASS-MENT
JUST LEND ME THE BOOK, PLEASE
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
I HEARD ICHIMURA AND SENSEI .....

ARE DATING RIGHT NOW!
BUT YOU DIDN'T GET HER FACE.
NO. BUT THAT'S DEFINITELY ICHIMURA-SAN!
AS A FAN OF HERS THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'M WRONG!
Ah. I'm so sad.
...SENSEI?
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT?
WHY...
SENSEI...
SEN-
CRAP!
WHAT HEY, ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
Cell phones are banned. Hand it over!
THIS IS A MISUNDER-STANDING!
Haha poor you
But it's not true!
Whaat should I do?!
Whe-
.....
We were seen ?!?!
LOOK!

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT IT'S NOT HER.
THAT ISN'T ICHIMURA.
NO.
I DON'T KNOW.
.....
THEN WHO IS IT?
HEADMASTER'S OFFICE
SO,
I'M ASKING YOU IF THE STUDENT IN THIS PICTURE IS ICHIMURA.
SENSEI...!
SENSEI ...?
WHAT DID THEY SAY?!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NO IT'S NOT.

THEY...
TALKED ABOUT TRANSFERRING ME SOMEWHERE ELSE...
...WHY?!
I...I'M GOING TO TELL THEM IT WAS JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING!
ICHIMURA!
THIS DECISION WAS AL-READY MADE.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AT ALL, ICHIMURA.

WILL BE TRANSFERRING AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
ANYWAY, I...
WHISPER
IS IT TRUE?
commotion
WHISPER
rowdy
THAT THING WITH ICHI-MURA-SAN...?
EH, IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT?
WHISPER
noisy
HEY, YOU GUYS SHOULD BE A BIT MORE SAD!
I'M SAYING THAT I AM LEAVING HERE!
HAHA!
WHAT,
SO THE RUMOUR ISN'T TRUE
WAS THE PICTURE PHOTOSHOPPED?
YOU DON'T HAVE CHANCE!
THEN IS ICHIMURA-SSAN STILL SINGLE?!
IT'S BECAUSE MY FATHER HAS FALLEN ILL.
SO, I'M HEADING OVER TO MY HOME TOWN TO HELP HIM OUT!
you watch way too many soap operas!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?!

That's right.
there's nothing at all
between us...
Well! Continuing on with our lesson~
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AT ALL, ICHIMURA.
"Born and raised in Tokyo..."
Sensei's lying...
his father doesn't live outside of the city.

Nothing.

EH?
SAKI-NEE!
AND THEN...
AHAHA, REALLY?

A WHILE AGO
MY SISTER WAKABA MANAGED TO FIND A MUTUAL LOVE.
NEE -CHAN,
WHO ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
AH... I JUST HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO
BYE! SEE YOU LATER!
OKAY, I WILL!
WOULD YOU TELL MOM FOR ME?
I MIGHT BE A BIT LATE TO-NIGHT,
HEE HEE HEE!
WAH! WAKABA!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO ARE FINALLY A COUPLE
You're holding hands!!
Too

Still,
Sensei is the only one who shines.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER IF I COULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM MY CLASS.
EVEN IF I HAD TO FORCE MYSELF,
IF IT WERE LIKE THAT THEN THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE THIS

WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT.
Someone might see us again!
Kekeke... Just kidding.
.....
I DON'T CARE.
ICHIMURA ...?
That light
has torn apart
the darkness of my little world.

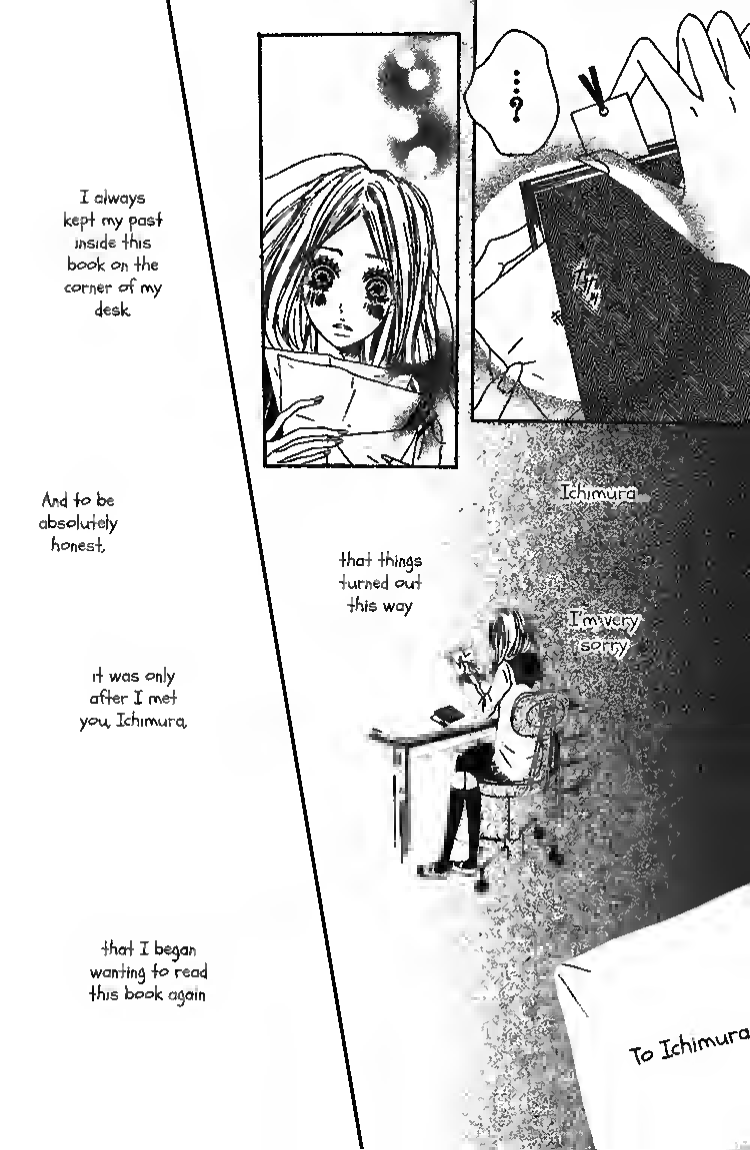
I...
I DON'T CARE.
OR WHAT-EVER THEY MIGHT SAY,
WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE SEE,
SENSEI.
I LIKE YOU,

HAHA, THANK YOU.
I NEVER GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT MYSELF IN THE MIRROR, YOU KNOW?
I QUITE LIKE MYSELF TOO!
SENSEI!
SENSEI,
AH!
ABOUT THAT BOOK YOU BORROWED FROM ME-
PLEASE DON'T PATRONIZE ME.
I...
DON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR THAT BOOK ANYMORE
DON'T SAY THAT...
I DON'T NEED SOME SORT OF OLD-FASHIONED REPLY.
YOU SOUND LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
...I KNOW THAT.
I...I'M SERIOUS!
I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, ICHIMURA

BUT...
I'M UNABLE TO RESPOND TO YOUR FEELINGS.
I'M SORRY.
...TAKE CARE.

IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS IN THE END
IT ENDED SO EASILY.
Staff Room
I'M COMING IN...
SENSEI'S
ORIGINALLY MESSY DESK
WAS COMPLETELY CLEARED OUT

HE REALLY ISN'T HERE ANY-MORE
THE STAFF MEETING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
YES, COMING
.....
pull
I DIDN'T WANT IT...
BUT HE LEFT IT FOR ME ANYWAY
CLEARLY HE'S TRYING TO FORCE ME TO-...


I always kept my past inside this book on the corner of my desk.
...?
And to be absolutely honest,
Ichimura
that things turned out this way
I'm very sorry
it was only after I met you, Ichimura,
that I began wanting to read this book again
To Ichimura

I am a teacher,

and you are a student.

Although I said that I cannot respond to your feelings

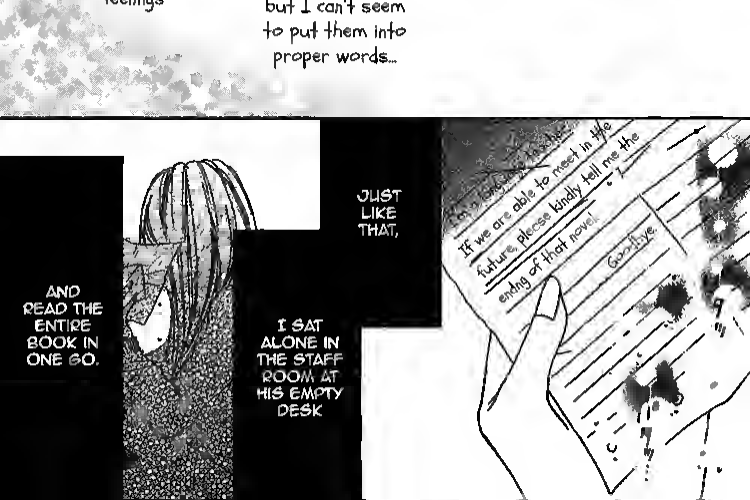
I think I was just trying to convince myself

My feelings for Ichimura are growing.

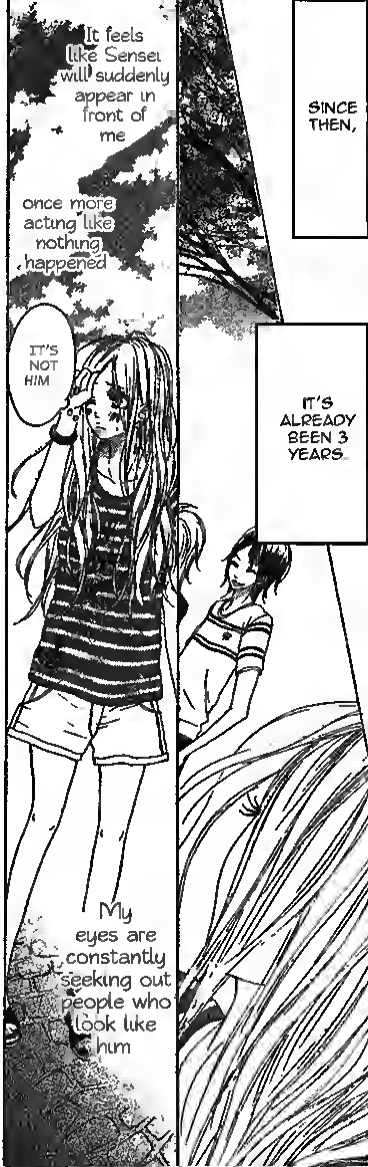
I'm a language teacher

these simple and gentle feelings

but I can't seem to put them into proper words...


I am a teacher,
If we are able to meet in the future, please kindly tell me the ending of that novel.
Goodbye.
JUST LIKE THAT,
I SAT ALONE IN THE STAFF ROOM AT HIS EMPTY DESK
AND READ THE ENTIRE BOOK IN ONE GO.

WELCOME!
I KNOW I'M BEING REALLY STUPID
IT'S ENOUGH
Are you alone?
May I sit with you?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER SEATS AVAILABLE-
Haha!
COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT.
LET'S HAVE A TALK.


SINCE THEN,
IT'S ALREADY BEEN 3 YEARS.
It feels like Sensei will suddenly appear in front of me
once more acting like nothing happened
IT'S NOT HIM
My eyes are constantly seeking out people who look like him

COULD YOU...
TELL ME THE ENDING OF THAT BOOK?

our finale was rather old-fashioned.

Meeting again after such a long time

our separation finally came to an end.

Holding each other with a touch of sincerity

But

this is more than enough.

<END>

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